

Water Quality Protection Division



Mississippi Canyon 252 Oil Spill, Gulf of Mexico Region 6 Update

Subject: **Water Quality Division Update # 47**
 Mississippi Canyon 252 Oil Spill, Gulf of Mexico

Date: July 7, 2010

Reporting Period: July 6, 2010 1300 – July 7, 2010 1300

HIGHLIGHTS

- Regional weather patterns will likely hamper response and sampling efforts over the next few days.

CONTINUING ISSUES

Forecast

The nearshore oil forecast created by NOAA on 7/6/10 at 2100 CDT for 7/7/10 at 1200 CDT (Figure 1) indicates that the main portion of the oil slick will be east of Louisiana with a large portion of the slick south of the Delta extending westward towards Barataria and Caillou Bay. Winds are forecast to be predominately out of the southeast at 11-14 knots. Shoreline contacts may occur on the barrier islands of Mississippi, Alabama and the Florida Panhandle as far east as Pensacola, Fl. With the sustained SE winds, shoreline contacts also threaten Breton Sound, the Chandeleur Islands and the Mississippi Delta. Models continue to show that with the southeast winds and westward currents, oil will move west of the delta and then northwards towards Barataria and Caillou Bay. Satellite overflights indicate small oil patches south of Vermillion Parish that will be subjected to strong coastal currents which could result in scattered tarball impacts to Texas.

- For maps concerning shoreline impact assessments, oil slick forecasts, and sampling locations go to <http://www.deepwaterhorizonresponse.com/go/doctype/2931/53979/>

Monitoring and Assessment

- Continuing to coordinate with HQ, Region 4, and the REOC Environmental Unit regarding planning activities and daily review of monitoring data.

Drinking Water

- Drinking water intakes, public drinking water wells, and domestic wells have not been impacted by the oil sheen to date.
- EPA Region 6 continues to coordinate closely with the LDHH on all drinking water issues.

NPDES

- Participating in discussions with OW and R4 on options for modification of existing oil and gas general permits in the Gulf of Mexico.

Coastal Programs

Louisiana Large-Scale Coastal Barrier Plan:

- Coastal Section staff and managers participated in the third weekly interagency barrier berm status meeting. Work on the berm has been held up by a week due to inclement weather but may resume tomorrow afternoon. While the Chandeleur Island reach of the berm largely withstood the storm, some of the 1100 -1200 cubic yards of berm material placed before the storm moved, slumping and flattening on the western end. The National Guard plans to inspect the berm for oil as soon as weather permits. An additional area within Pass a Loutre will be requested for use as a borrow site. Discussions are beginning with regard to the dredging equipment needs for this project and how they might adversely impact navigation channel maintenance dredging throughout the Gulf and particularly for the Mississippi River.
- At the time of the Corps' emergency permit authorization, the State was afforded 30 days to submit a full permit application, submitted several days ago. Reviews are underway of the permit application package and monitoring plan.

Corps Emergency Authorizations for Coastal Protection Features:

- No additional requests have been received. To date, 61 projects have been proposed and reviewed by Regions 4 & 6.

Corps Navigation Maintenance Dredging:

- Discussions continue regarding dredged material disposal in the lower Mississippi River in light of reports of surface sheen and tar balls in the area designated by EPA for ocean disposal of dredged material (ODMDS). Jane Watson will meet with Chris Accardo (Chief of Operations, Corps--New Orleans District) this morning.
- Discussions continue internally and with the Corps (headquarters, Districts, and MV Division) on the EPA (R6, R4, OCPD) discussion white paper on ocean dumping suitability issues in areas impacted by the oil spill.

Ecological Impact Analyses:

- Staff is in contact with the Harte Research Institute for Gulf of Mexico Studies regarding Dr. Wes Tunnell's continuation of post-Ixtoc oil spill impacts and possible implications for the Deepwater Horizon long-term impacts.

Coastal Wetlands Planning, Protection and Restoration Act (CWPPRA)

- It is anticipated that there may be re-oiling of several shorelines in the vicinity of CWPPRA projects located in the Barataria and Terrebonne basins.